

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE CAUSES OF DULL TIMES.

From the Chicago Republican. One of the most notorious facts is the stagnation in business throughout a wide-spread portion of this country.

In 1865, McCulloch instituted his policy of contraction. He burned many thousands of dollars of currency, and thus very materially reduced the volume of the circulating medium.

This persistent effort to get back to a resumption of specie payments was accompanied by a variety of influences leading in the direction of panic.

With the cessation of hostilities between the sections, came a dispersion of the currency, whose other name is contraction.

Regions which never before had contained a dollar of greenbacks, soon absorbed every dollar of national currency of all sorts they could attract.

As each person was crowded out, without resort for subsistence but the sale of his services, the war on salaries and wages accumulated.

Moreover, the purchasing power of the community was, at the same time, diminishing. Every one deprived of the power of earning a livelihood was necessarily abridged in his power to make purchases.

There was plenty to sell, but there were constantly fewer and fewer buyers. Such is increasingly the condition of the North.

Thousands upon thousands are without employment, and the number is regularly augmenting without the prospect of diminution.

There is a competition for the sale of services, and this competition grows constantly stronger and stronger. Here we get at the secret of the dullness of the times.

Men who have no money cannot buy; men who cannot find employment cannot earn money; men who have no money and cannot earn it are in no condition to be purchasers of commodities.

Under such circumstances it is impossible not to have dull times. Meantime, the South, so lately desolated and almost bankrupt, is prosperous.

Why? Because there a competition for the employment of service is taking place. The great cry is for laborers.

Every person who seeks it can find labor, and reasonable compensation. In various parts of the cotton belt, negroes are able to accumulate from \$500 to \$3000 for one year's work.

It is because labor is scarce and high. These persons, at best, are only skilled farm hands, conversant with the culture of the fleecy staple.

While they reap a harvest of return upon their daily toil, thousands in the North stand upon the verge of suffering, perhaps almost of starvation.

grieve to say, ended somewhat tragically, for the city editor (we are loth to write it), maddened by the reports of Mrs. Stielman, was so ungallant as to stab her with that instrument of his vocation, "a penknife."

This business of chastising is getting, it seems to us, a little stale and tedious. It would be quite refreshing to hear of somebody who, having been blown to a great height in the journalistic columns, had suddenly descended to regard his involuntary elevation with profound contempt.

Speaking for ourselves personally, and as a general thing, we had rather be despised than cated, and anybody who feels disposed is, by these presents, accorded full liberty to regard us with the utmost loathing and horror.

And sometimes to mitigate an offense against decency is substantially to publish not "a lie" (for that is a word which it is never proper to use), but let us say "an untruth," which is a more comfortable expression.

Therefore, we may be obliged to call a man sometimes by his name, but should we do so, we hereby permit, allow, and license that man to consider us as cated or cowhided—to post the fact, as if it were a fact, in all bar-room, exchanges, and other places where men most do congregate—to boast and brag and swagger up and down the town at our expense; and to publish, if he pleases, in a pamphlet, the particulars of our chastisement.

He will thus experience all the pleasures without the perils of a heroic action, while it will be our own good luck to escape the pangs. For his consolation, we assure him that he will find fools enough to believe him; to glory greatly in his valor and our own discomfiture; to narrate the tale in all companies to which they may gain admission with a perfect *credendo* of circumstances; and to consider us as a thing to be pointed at, ridiculed, and despised.

He will thus acquire immense reputation: our own will not be materially hurt; everything will go on serenely, without recourse to the low and vulgar expedient of flogging, which is only fit for the Five Points or for Donnybrook Fair. Men beaten in the abstract feel no bruises, while the complacency of men who so beat them is perfectly illimitable.

To suppose that a newspaper can be conducted without provoking the extreme wrath of somebody, is the acme of absurdity. Partly, and a great part, of the legitimate business of journalism is to give offense to those who are deserving of public censure.

When we are all virtuous together this will be different; at present the fact, however mortifying to the pride of human nature, remains fixed. The censor must do his duty, although he may himself be very far from faultless.

To the honest public he is responsible for veracity and fair intention; to those he may offend for the cating—in the abstract!

THE KING AND THE REPUBLICANS.

From the N. Y. World. The most noteworthy thing in the proceedings at Albany on Wednesday is the fact that the Republicans of the Assembly voted in a body for the Tweed charter.

The covert *raison* which has long existed between the ring and the Republican party was celebrated yesterday as an open marriage. The nuptials promise a new progeny of corruption. It is a union cemented by "the cohesive power of public plunder."

There has long been a partition of the city spoils between the parties to this new arrangement, who have adroitly played into each other's hands. Party and pecuniary interest have conspired together to act together, and the Republicans find no difficulty in coming to the rescue of the ring, when the ring is pushed to an extremity.

The half-and-half Board of Supervisors, of which Tweed is the head and the master-spirit, and which has long had the bad eminence of being more notoriously, more recklessly corrupt than any other combination on Manhattan Island, was the fruit of a bargain between dishonest Democrats at Albany for mutual gain and advantage.

This great head of the city, where all the most corrupt humors gather and fester, is left untouched by the Tweed charter; and this is one of the inducements by which the ring has won Republican support. The other corrupt inducements will appear in due time, if this monstrosity of a charter should pass the Senate.

Mayor Hall, the creature and tool of the ring, who is to be kept in office to make all the new appointments, is pledged to appoint Republicans to places in all the new commissions; and it is in consideration of this pledge, and of leaving the Ring-Republican Board of Supervisors untouched, that the Republicans of the Legislature have voted to go *en masse* for the Tweed charter.

This is Democratic city. The Democratic vote outnumber the Republican voters three to one. If this city enjoyed the same right of self-government which is accorded to all other localities, Republicans could hold no offices here, and would have no part of the city patronage. It has been a standing topic of complaint by the Democracy of the city, and a standing topic of invective by the hypocritical ring, that the Republicans have used their power in the Legislature to foist their partisans into office in a city where no Republicans could be elected by the votes of the people.

When the Democrats to party got control of the Legislature, it was expected that this wrong would be redressed. But what do we find? We have seen the ring opposing and defeating every wholesome reform which would deprive its members of their dishonest gains; and now, to keep themselves in power, they make a corrupt alliance with the Republicans based on a promise to give them as large a show in the city government as they have possessed under the odious legislative commissions. We are to have as many Republican officers in the city under the Tweed charter, as there were under the system which is about to be displaced in form, while it is retained in substance. We are to have the same number of Republican Supervisors to share the plunder of new court houses and Harlem bridge jobs; we are to have an intermixture of Republican Police Commissioners, Republican Commissioners of the Central Park under a new name, and so on to the end of the long chapter of city departments. This profligate bargain had been con-

cluded by the inglorious flight of Tweed and his skulking adherents on Monday, and it was in pursuance of this understanding that Kennedy's police were poured into and around Tammany Hall on Monday afternoon and evening, to shut out the Tammany Committee from their own building, under a preposterous pretense of keeping the public peace. The double-faced Tweed, who had sanctioned, nay called, the meeting, was manager-in-chief in this ridiculous stratagem to prevent its being held. Kennedy, his Republican confederate, sent well on to a thousand armed policemen to support him in this disgraceful, cowardly manoeuvre. Everything had been concocted and arranged between the ring and its Republican allies before the city clock struck twelve on Sunday night. Kennedy had been informed by the alliance between Tweed and the Republican members of the Legislature.

This corrupt coalition causes all Republicans who have any remaining sense of decency to hang their heads with shame, and blush from ear to ear. After all the noisy denunciations of the ring which have resounded through their journals, year in and year out, since the ring came into power, it is a pretty spectacle indeed to see all their members of the Legislature leaping into the water to pull up the drowning ring by the locks, and save its precious, invaluable life!

These Republicans are willing to uphold the commissions which are their own work, and have been the theme of their constant enlog, because they find that, by this means, they can continue their partnership with the King, and remain joint sharers with it of the city plunder. The Evening Post renounced, Wednesday, against this disgrace; but it preached to the winds. The coalition had been clinched, and the parties to it are deaf to argument. It is all bargain and sale; all hire and salary. The Post might as well preach to a hungry ass beginning to browse on the succulent cabbage-plants in a garden, or to a wolf just inserting its fangs in the quivering flesh of a lamb, as to the Republicans who have just completed this scandalous bargain with Tweed.

GENERAL GRANT, THE SENATE, AND THE DOMINICAN TREATY.

From the N. Y. Herald. The United States Senate, since the purchase of Alaska (481,000 square miles on the main land and a string of islands which no man can number stretching clear across the Pacific Ocean, and all for \$7,200,000 in California gold), has become somewhat distrustful of any further investments for the present in real estate. The Conscrip Fathers, in fact, look upon Alaska, the house of the white bear, as a white elephant, and not knowing what to do with him they don't want any more elephants, white or black. Hence the failure of the St. Thomas treaty, although certain volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tidal waves in that quarter played the mischief in regard to the proposed secession of the Southern States. But it was determined by the loyal men of the nation that they should not go. And after a desperate struggle the territory was reclaimed, the true men of the North advised and assisted to restore republican forms of government. And the aid of all others, with but few exceptions, solicited in the patriotic enterprise. After a long struggle, with varying fortunes, governments were at length erected in the Southern States, and the Constitutions adopted by large majorities, approved by the representatives of the people in Congress assembled. But there was the most bitter hostility evinced against these acts of the Republican party, and here in the South, from the riots at Memphis, New Orleans, Mobile, Richmond, and Savannah, down to the present time, the more desperate portion of those who hate the General Government have signalled that hatred by the perpetration of outrages of a most flagrant character upon the persons and property of loyal citizens for the purposes of revenge as well as of intimidation. The story of their deeds in North Carolina is the story of their deeds in other States. And they have but one end in view, the subjection of true men to their will and a reposition of office, place, and power, whence they can embarrass the General Government, destroy the national credit, glorify the lost cause, reduce the negroes to penury, and hold the country again with lofty heads, despite the results of the war or of future consequences.

It has been only thirteen months since they moved for the utter annihilation of the Southern States Governments. Foiled in this, they now attempt to get control of the machinery of those Governments, under the falsest pretenses, and with the coolest ferocity. In their hands the State Governments will be annihilated, destroyed and reborn. It is the old wolf in the skin of another sheep, which it has just slaughtered.

Shall the wayward sisters go? Will the Congress stand by and see its work pulled to pieces, in violation of the final terms of the settlement? We believe that it will not, but a strange spasm seems to have fallen upon that body—it makes haste to do some things, and leave undone others, while the impending danger thickens, and the whistle of a clan of murderers floats on every breeze under all the night skies of the Southern heavens. We do not wish to use force, but when force is used, it must be met with force. We do not wish to retaliate, but we should certainly do so if attacked and maltreated, and hold to responsibility a life or a limb as worthy as ours, and as dear to others as these precious gifts are to ourselves and to our friends.

When this Ku-Klux organization is dissolved and exposed to the infamy which it merits, then the moderate men of the other party will be welcomed into power, if it be their fortune, by generous foes, after a fair contest, in which truth shall be left free to combat error. Then the halcyon days of chivalric difference will be restored; but so long as moderate men, as they call themselves, remain in the same ranks with murderers and assassins, they cannot hope for either confidence from us or from the General Government. Time and time again they have been put forward as figure-heads, but when the fulfillment of actual purposes the hour to strike a blow arrived, they were set aside, and the arm of their most extreme and destructive associates appeared to deal that blow, coming forth as the power from behind the throne, which is more mighty than the throne itself.

Let the wayward sisters go. No gentlemen, they will never go. And though it may seem that the question of the immortal Webster, who exclaimed, "Who shall restore the shattered columns of constitutional liberty?" yet remains but half answered, still we believe that those columns will be restored by the hands of those who love the temple, whose front it is their place to adorn, and in whose halls the consecrated fires of liberty burn upon the altars of our country.

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MADEIRAS—Old Island, South Side Reserve. SHERRIES—F. Redolph, Amantillo, Topaz, Valde, Fels and Golden Bar, Oporto, etc. PORTS—Vinho Velho Real, Valente, and Crown. CLARETS—From Ains & Co., Monferrand and Bordeaux, Claret and Sauternes Wines. GIN—Macer Swan. BRANDIES—Hennessy, Otard, Dupuy & Co.'s various vintages.

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